

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: *Eric R. Weaver*

GROUP ART UNIT 2154

S.N.: **10/695,975**

EXAMINER: *Hu, Jinsong*

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Confirmation no. 7991

FOR: **METHOD FOR CONVERTING INTERNET
MESSAGES FOR PUBLISHING**

ATTY. **1442.3**

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MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. BOX 1450

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

INTRODUCTION

In response to the office action dated September 26, 2007, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-16, based on the following amendments and remarks. Claim 14 is canceled. Claims 1-13 and 15-16 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

REMARKS

(2) The Examiner objected to claim 14 as being indefinite.
The correction has been made.

(3) The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 13-16 under U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Knight et al. (16,778,982). This rejection is respectively traversed. The examiner indicates that Knight shows an online content provider system and method that presents content to a subscriber. In this, Knight includes a database for storing the content and the database has one or more tabulation databases 580-582 (see column 24, lines 52-65). These tabulation databases are used to track information about the message groups such as which message group is accessed most frequently, etc. This is not equivalent to providing a "*second message database*" as in (e) of applicant's claim 1 because 580-582 is not a second message database. There are no provisions in Knight to import one or more messages from a first database and through a protocol, store those messages in a second database. Applicant's system provides for extracting one or more messages (or postings) from on message database (e.g., a first user group) and then storing the extracted messages in a second database (e.g., a new user group). One application of such is when an active discussion in a first user group diverges into two distinct discussions and to maintain focus, a facilitator extracts those entries (or messages) relating to one of the distinct discussions (from a

first database) and imports only the extracted messages into a new discussion group (to a second database). Once created, each discussion group proceeds, independent of each other. In this, the selected thread (messages pertaining to the one distinct discussion) is selected, though other criteria are possible for selection such as messages within a specified time frame, etc. This is different from cut/paste since it keeps the extracted messages in a news group format so they operate as a news group in the second database. Furthermore, there is no provision to edit the retrieved messages in the second database as per step (i) of claim 1. Claim 14 is canceled. Claims 1-3, 13 and 15-16 depend are believed to be novel. It follows that the rejection should be withdrawn.

(8) The Examiner rejected claims 4-12 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight et al. (16,778,982) in view of Noveck (6823363). This rejection is respectively traversed. Noveck provides for one user to become a moderator during a discussion, thereby locking out all other users from speaking (see FIG 3, 120). Applicant's moderator controls the steps of "*importing retrieved messages, editing retrieved messages and outputting the predefined edited retrieved messages*" which has nothing to do with enabling or disabling other users from speaking (e.g., posting new messages/responses). Since the independent claim 1 is believed novel as per the discussion above and the moderator function of Noveck is different from

that of applicant's moderator, it is believed that claims 4-12 are novel. It follows that the rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of all the above, it is believed that Claims 1-13 and 15-16 are novel and are now in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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